



Director Randall Schulz

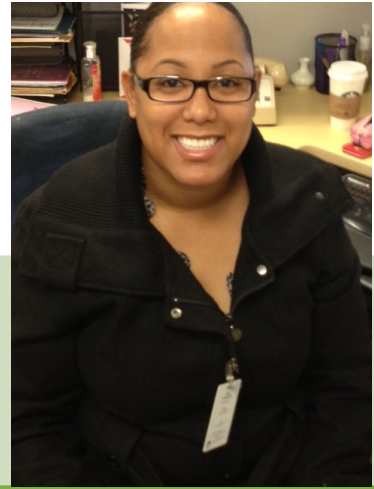
The mission of Children and Family Services (CFS) is to protect endangered children, preserve and strengthen their families, and develop alternative family settings. Services, as mandated by law and regulation, will be provided in the least intrusive manner with a family-centered focus. This mission is accomplished in collaboration with the family, a wide variety of public and private agencies and members of the community.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES



TESTIMONIAL

Alicia Washington, Peer and Family Assistant

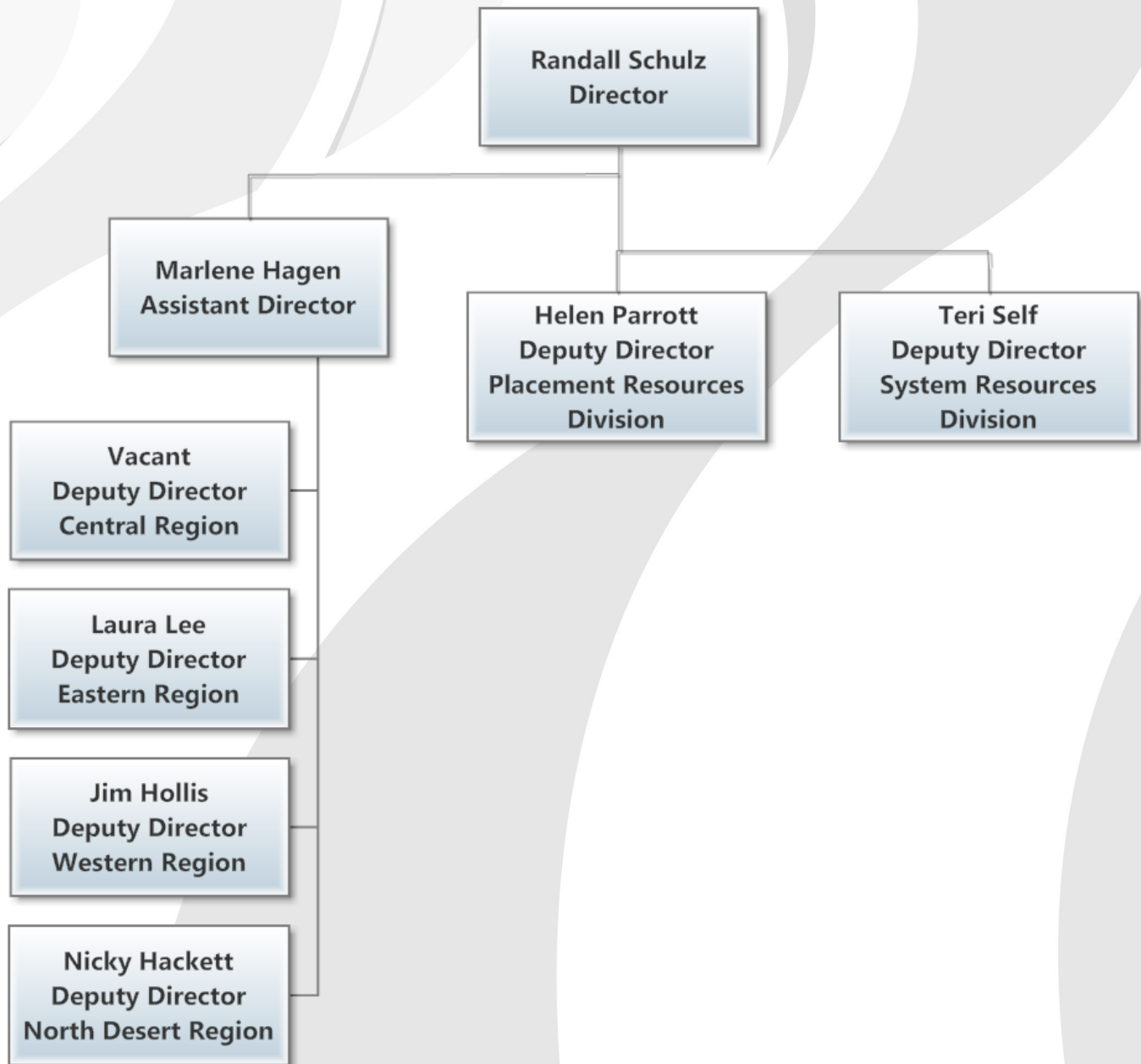


Alicia and her twin sister entered foster care at the age of one and remained there for approximately two years until their mom completed parenting classes and was returned custody. At the age of 12, the sisters went back in to the foster care system and were placed in a relative's home. About a year later, the girls were back with their mom. When they were 14 they re-entered foster care for a third time. Alicia's mom had her parental rights terminated, so the sisters stayed with a relative once again. At the age of 14, the sisters changed high schools and started taking life skills classes in Riverside County. At 18 years of age, Alicia entered Aftercare Services and was in the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) in San Bernardino County. Her sister later joined her in the Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Program (THP+).

The Transitional Housing Placement programs taught the sisters vital life skills. They learned how to cook, manage money, pay bills, rent an apartment and turn on utilities; things they had never been taught. "At the time I was in it, it was a great program," said Alicia. She was able to get a part-time job, go to school and still receive the support she needed. Alicia graduated from Riverside Community College with two Associates degrees in sociology and arts and currently attends California State University, San Bernardino where she plans to get a degree in social work.

For a while, Alicia worked as an Ombudsman for a San Bernardino County Children and Family Services' (CFS) provider. In 2011, she learned about an opening for a Peer and Family Assistant (PFA) with the department and quickly applied for and got the position. Alicia currently serves as a PFA and performs case management and life skills classes and mentors many youth on education and other related issues. As a PFA, Alicia attends and helps plan all their events. Her favorite event is *Independent City* where youth learn real world life skills. Youth who participate in the event learn to manage their bills, some go to court, some pay fines and some graduate, which is a reality for many foster youth transitioning into adulthood. "The event has a real impact on them and makes a big difference in their lives."

Alicia is grateful for the support she has received from CFS as a youth, and now as a PFA. She regularly seeks educational advice from her former Supervising Social Service Practitioner and mentor, Kevin Anderson, who has been a strong supporter of her education. "Kevin has really encouraged me from the beginning, and saw something in me that I didn't see in myself."



Overview

DESCRIPTION

Children and Family Services (CFS) provides family-centered programs and services designed to ensure safety, permanence and well-being for San Bernardino County's children while strengthening and attempting to preserve the family unit. CFS helps prevent further harm to children from intentional physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, exploitation, or neglect by a person responsible for a child's health or welfare. Services provide support for families and strive towards reducing risks to children, improving parenting skills, and strengthening social support networks for families. Services provided include:

Emergency Response (ER) services are in-person investigations for children in danger from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. These services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in which short-term intensive services are provided to families to ensure children are safe and receiving appropriate care from their parent or guardian. Emphasis is on crisis intervention and avoiding a Juvenile Court action.

Family Maintenance (FM) services provide time limited services to children in their own homes aimed at preventing or correcting neglect and abuse. The goal is to allow children to remain safely in their own homes by providing services and supervision for the family.

Family Reunification (FR) services provide time limited services to families whose children cannot remain safely in the home and whose children have been removed by court order. The goal is to help families overcome problems so the children can be reunited with their parents or guardians.

Permanency Planning (PP) services are provided only when there are no feasible means of maintaining or reunifying the child with his/her parent(s). Permanency Planning is defined as a comprehensive case planning process directed toward the goal of a permanent stable home for a child. It is generated from Concurrent Planning, which is the timely permanence for children through the establishment of an alternate permanent plan while FR services are being provided.

Permanency Programs are a means of providing a permanent stable home for a child via:

- Reunification with custodial parent(s)
- Adoption
- Guardianship
- Kin-gap
- Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (PPLA)

Adoption is the permanent plan and legal process offering the most stability to the child who cannot return to their parents which permanently gives parental rights to adoptive parents.

Accomplishments for 2012/2013

CFS ACCOMPLISHED THE FOLLOWING IN 2012/2013:

- ✓ Received and assessed 52,122 child abuse referrals, based on the number of children involved in the referrals.
- ✓ Finalized 345 adoptions.
- ✓ Arranged for 1,184 children to attend Summer Camp.
- ✓ Hosted 340 foster and kinship youth at the 6th Annual Sports Faire organized by CFS.
- ✓ Hosted the annual Foster Parent Picnic with 574 children, foster parents, and others in attendance.
- ✓ Hosted 70 graduating youth at the 2013 Senior Celebration to commemorate their achievement of completing high school; they were accompanied by 87 guests.
- ✓ Served 80 youth in the Transitional Housing Placement-Plus program (THP+).
- ✓ Provided Wraparound services to 792 children countywide by CFS, Probation and Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to decrease group home placements.
- ✓ Completed 1,273 Participatory Decision Making meetings including 1,010 Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings, 262 Transitional Conferences (TC) and one Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) meeting. A total of 1,127 community partners and family support individuals participated in these meetings.
- ✓ Completed 1,949 Relative and Non-Relative Extended Family Member (NREFM) assessments and re-assessments for 2,645 youth placements.
- ✓ As of June 30, 2013, a total of 440 foster family homes were licensed.
- ✓ Provided services to 1,298 children and youth at the Children's Assessment Center.



Senior Celebration



Foster and Kinship Youth Sports Faire



Computer Bootcamp

Goals for 2013/2014

CFS ESTABLISHED THE FOLLOWING GOALS FOR 2013/2014:

1. Increase the number of TDM meetings.
2. Increase timeliness to Family Reunification.
3. Increase the percentage total of TC with transitioned age youth.

How Outcomes Are Measured

CFS MEASURES OUTCOMES BY THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

Accomplishments and goals are analyzed through various means in keeping with departmental goals and the Systems Improvement Plan (SIP). Most data is extrapolated from Child Welfare Services/ Case Management System (CWS/CMS) through the use of concurrently running software such as Business Objects.

CFS has the ability to produce reports based on very specific criteria including demographics, program information, services provided, and case information. Additionally, CFS monitors and analyzes information based on both state and federal outcome measures.

Activity	Measure
Increase the number of TDM meetings to develop safety plans, increasing the number of children remaining safely at home and decreasing foster care entries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase percentage of completed TDMs for the children/youth at risk of removal from home.
Increase timeliness to Family Reunification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase percentage of children reunified within 12 months from the date of detention.
Increase the percentage total of TC with transition age youth to assist them in preparing for a successful exit from foster care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase percentage of TC conducted for foster care youth.

Program Information

COLLATERAL PROGRAMS

Family to Family (F2F) - CFS has adopted this nationally known “best practice” model which strives to create a child welfare system that is neighborhood-focused, family-centered and strength-based. A primary goal is to maintain children in their own community when placement is required thereby preserving many of the key positive relationships and influences in the child’s life. The core strategies are recruiting placement resources for families, building community partnerships, using participatory decision making, and monitoring outcomes.

Participatory Decision Making - When removing children from their homes, changing placement or returning at risk children to their homes, CFS strives to involve all relevant stakeholders in the placement decision. Several strategies are used including Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings, Transitional Conferences (TCs), and Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). Each of these is strength-based, family-focused intervention processes mediated by a facilitator. They are designed to strengthen the natural care giving system for the children. Participants include family members, family-identified support persons, CFS caseworkers, and other service providers.

Healthy Homes - A collaborative between CFS and DBH to increase early identification of treatment needs for children, stability of out-of-home placements, and potential for reunification.

Wraparound - An intensive, strength- and needs-driven, community-based, family-centered service delivery process designed to allow seriously emotionally disturbed children to remain in their community or at the least restrictive level of care. The wraparound process "wraps" the child and his/her family with a flexible array of intensive services while supporting the child to succeed in a lower placement level or in the child’s own home. Wraparound is provided in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health, Probation Department, Department of Public Health, County Superintendent of Schools, community members and faith-based organizations.

Independent Living Program (ILP) - A federal- and state-funded, nationwide program designed to provide basic life skills, career exploration and job readiness preparation for foster teens. Eligible teens (16-21 years of age) learn skills to prepare them to transition to adulthood and live on their own. ILP services include workshops, conferences, training, career counseling, tutoring, and assistance with scholarships.

Educational Liaisons (EL) - ELs work cooperatively with social workers, schools, foster youth, and caregivers to ensure the educational needs of foster children are met. The ELs are experienced in the educational profession, usually as credentialed teachers, making them subject matter experts in the regional offices for social workers to consult regarding educational issues for children on their caseloads. ELs track Exit Exams and graduation credits, as well as advocate for foster children to receive needed services such as tutoring through the school district. ELs also assist youth in the preparation for and application to college.

PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Family Advocacy Resource Services (FARS) - The FARS Unit includes the Parent Partner Program and Domestic Violence Counselors. Parent Partners and Domestic Violence Counselors are in each office to offer support not only to staff but to CFS clients. Parent Partners are available to help new CFS parents navigate the system. Since Parent Partners are former clients who have successfully reunified with their children they are able to speak to clients on a personal level. Parent Partners assist workers by acting as a life coach for birth parents, visiting birth parents in rehabilitation, and teaching social skills to birth parents. Domestic Violence Counselors are available to assist social workers with referrals or cases where domestic violence is a possible issue.

Family Visitation and Support Centers - When a child is placed in out-of-home care and the family is receiving Family Reunification services, visitation is always a part of the case plan and court order. In order to assist families to fulfill their plans for reunification, CFS provides access to Family Visitation and Support Centers to help facilitate supervised visitation in a setting outside of CFS. The centers are located throughout the County with flexible hours of operation to accommodate the needs of families served.

Statistical Information

CFS receives allegations of child abuse and neglect through referrals from the public and mandated reporters to the Child and Adult Abuse Hotline (CA AHL).

Referrals	JAN - DEC 2008 (12 months)	JAN - DEC 2009 (12 months)	JAN - DEC 2010 (12 months)	JAN - DEC 2011 (12 months)	JAN - DEC 2012 (12 months)	JAN - JUNE 2013 (6 months)
Referrals	27,458	26,828	27,767	24,428	27,301	14,075
Number of Children	48,541	47,871	52,933	47,732	52,122	25,610
Average Monthly Number Referrals	2,288	2,238	2,314	2,030	2,275	2,346

STATISTICAL INFORMATION CONTINUED

As of the end of June 2013, 4,368 children were in out-of-home care. Of those children, 21% were placed either outside of San Bernardino County (839) or out of the state (76). This excludes 372 probate guardian youth.

In fiscal year 12/13, 2,069 children left placement. This excludes 74 probate guardian youth. The following information pertains to the reasons for exiting foster care during this fiscal year.

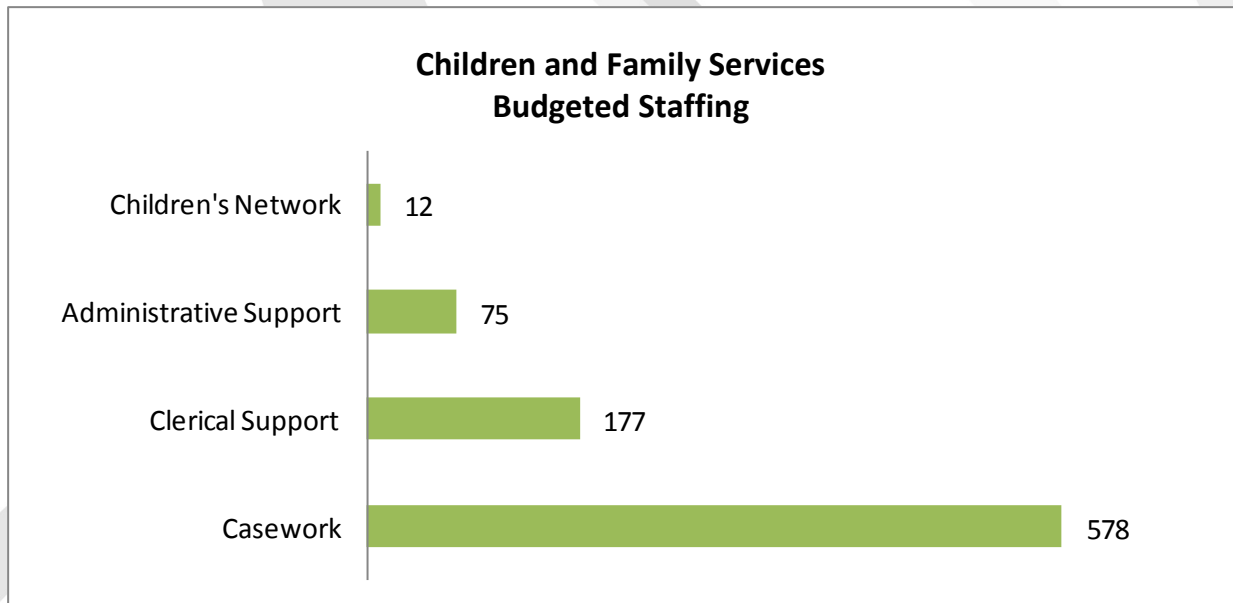
Foster Youth Exiting From Placement	# Foster Youths Exiting Foster Care FY 12/13	% Foster Youths Exit Reason
Reunification	1,242	60%
Adoption	372	18%
Guardianship	212	10%
Emancipation	138	7%
Non-CWS Agency has Jurisdiction	51	2%
Child Adjudicated 601/602	26	1%
Incarcerated	14	1%
Other	14	1%
Total	2,069	100%

Children in placement by age group at the end of June, 2013:

Age	Number	Percent
0 to 2	918	21%
3 to 5	738	17%
6 to 9	805	18%
10 to 12	503	12%
13 to 15	559	13%
16 to 18	707	16%
19 and older	138	3%
Total	4,368	100%

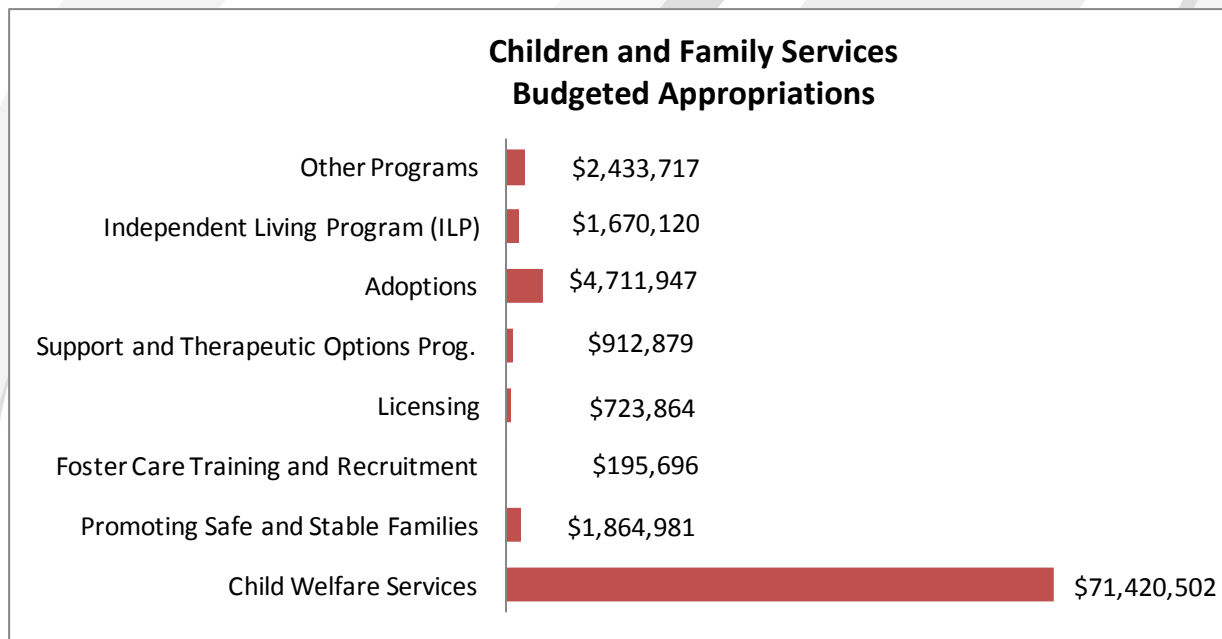
Staffing Information 2012/2013

Total staffing is approximately 842 employees.



Budget Information 2012/2013

The department budget for FY 12/13 is \$83,933,706.



Local Offices

Barstow

1900 East Main Street
(760) 957-1552

Fontana

17621 Foothill Boulevard
(909) 428-4201

Needles

1300 Bailey Avenue
(760) 326-9275

Rancho Cucamonga

9638 Seventh Street
(909) 945-3762

San Bernardino - Carousel Mall

128 Carousel Mall
(909) 388-1900

San Bernardino - Gifford

1504 Gifford Street
(909) 386-1100

San Bernardino - Placement Resources

412 West Hospitality Lane
(909) 891-3300

San Bernardino - System Resources

412 West Hospitality Lane
(909) 891-3300

Victorville

15480 Ramona Avenue
(760) 243-6640

Yucca Valley

56311 Pima Trail
(760) 228-5300